



News Release

USDA Forest Service

Cibola National Forest and Grasslands

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For Immediate Release

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Mt. Taylor Ranger District Begins Fire Restrictions

Albuquerque, NM. May 8, 2013. The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands' Mt Taylor Ranger District will begin Stage I fire restrictions effective 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 10, 2013. "Due to ongoing drought conditions and increasing fire danger, these restrictions are necessary to reduce the likelihood of human-caused wildfires and to protect public health and safety," said Acting Forest Supervisor Joe Norrell.

Norrell also said that the Mt. Taylor Ranger District's personal woodcutting permit season will be delayed until there is enough precipitation to reduce the risk of human-caused fires. The woodcutting season usually runs from mid-May through mid-December each year.

The District's campgrounds and picnic areas will be open on May 10 as planned. However, there are restrictions for campfires that are outlined below. Please use extreme caution when camping, as untended campfires are a frequent cause of wildfires. If you are going to have a campfire, please be sure to bring plenty of water to douse the fire and keep stirring the embers and adding water until the embers are cold to the touch.

Stage I fire restrictions include:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, except within a Forest Service developed recreation site, or improved site. **Exceptions:** The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, propane grills, or heating devices is allowed, provided such devices meet the fire underwriter's specification for safety and has a turn off valve.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.

The following are exempt from Stage I fire orders on public lands managed by the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands:

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
2. Any federal, state or local officer or member of an organized firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Resident owners and lessees of land, and holders of Forest Service recreation special use authorizations, within the restricted area are exempt from Restriction No. 1 above, provided such fires are within a permanent structure.

Current fire restrictions for the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands are:

- **Mt. Taylor Ranger District:** Will begin Stage I Fire Restrictions on May 10, 2013.
- **Mountainair Ranger District:** Will begin Stage II Fire Restrictions on May 13, 2013.
- **Sandia Ranger District:** Will begin Stage II Fire Restrictions on May 13, 2013.
- **Magdalena Ranger District:** No restrictions.
- **Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands:** No restrictions.
- **Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands:** No restrictions.

District employees regularly monitor temperatures, humidity, and precipitation and also assess the dryness of the vegetation to analyze conditions. This information is used to determine whether fire restrictions are enacted, elevated, lowered or rescinded.

The Cibola's fire restrictions can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/cibola/alerts-notices>

Useful fire websites:

- Cibola National Forest & Grasslands: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola>
- Fire Restrictions: <http://firerestrictions.us/>
- FireWise: www.firewise.org
- Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>
- National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
- National Incident Information Center: www.fs.fed.us/news/fire